**ENG40MF- Anderson**

**ROOM by Emma Donoghue**

**Novel study unit**

While reading this novel, you will perform a number of tasks that require you to think beyond the plot and characters. Most tasks will ask you to use metacognition- or “think about your thinking”. They will require you to look at your feelings about the story, your opinions, and make connections between the book and your life, other books/text/media, or the world.

Although this story may remind you of the Jaycee Duguard story, it is more loosely based on the following captivity story in Austria that surfaced in April 2008. Only read this if you have a strong stomach.  
[Fritzl case](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fritzl_case)

Please read instructions thoroughly, study the examples, and take note of the marking rubrics, to be sure you are doing the work correctly.

1. **Double Entry Response Journals:**
   1. Five double entry journals are required-
      1. Before beginning to read, looking at the cover, back, table of contents, pictures, font, etc.
      2. After Chapter 1
      3. Two somewhere in the middle of the book.
      4. After you have completed the book.
   2. Double entry response journal instructions-

Fold a sheet of looseleaf in half lengthwise, giving you two columns. Do not draw a line down the centre fold.

On the top left, put your name; top right put the date; in the centre on the line put the Journal number and the pages you read today.

In the left column, write details from the text:

* Characters introduced and described
* Events that take place
* Places or contexts that add meaning
* Provocative images
* Themes or issues addressed
* Noteworthy quotations
* Impressive techniques or devices

In the right column, write your thoughts about each detail you noted on the left.

* Feelings
* Opinions
* Questions and possible answers or explanations
* Connections to self, to other text, to the world
* comments
* Predictions

Eg.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Shari | Journal #1 p. 1-27 Feb. 13/12 |
|  |  |
|  | Cover This title is very close to another book I read called |
|  | The Room. I wonder if it will be anything like the |
|  | book. The other one was scary, this one just seems |
|  | weird. |
|  | p. 4 I looked down at Rug… I don’t get why all the nouns, or things in the room, |
|  | have capitals. I know it’s a little boy telling the |
|  | story, but that doesn’t explain it. The same items |
|  | don’t have capitals when the mom sees them. |

This journal page should be set up and kept handy as you are reading. That way, as you think of things to say, you can write them down immediately rather than going back and trying to think of something to say later.

Don’t forget to look at the rubric, or scoring sheet, to try to get the best marks you can.

* 1. Here is how you will be marked for each one-

Appropriate length (100 words) and legibility /3

Content /10

* + - Response is complete and shows an understanding of the section read, extending beyond superficial plot summary to explore thoughts and feelings
    - Response reflects significant theme or idea
    - Response demonstrates ability to relate selections to one another and make comparisons
    - Response asks questions and makes predictions
    - Response builds on previous entries and offers evidence of reflections and self-evaluation
    - Response reveals growing insights into, and an appreciation of, contemporary issues
    - Response reveals ability to consider a wide range of diverse viewpoints and perspectives
    - **DO NOT JUST RETELL THE PLOT**- **YOU WILL GET NO MARKS FOR THIS**. I HAVE READ THE BOOK ALREADY AND KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED. Only tell what is necessary of the plot to get your point across.

1. **Responding to text:** 
   1. This is a technique that you must master in order to do well on the provincial exam, as these questions are worth about ½ the marks available. It’s not difficult, but the following information will explain how to do it.
   2. Here are the basic 6 steps-
      1. Read the question and put it in your own words to make sure that you know exactly what is being asked. Make certain that you have accounted for all parts of the question. Use a highlighter.
      2. Write a topic sentence that answers the question directly.
      3. Support your topic sentence with reasons why your answer is true.
      4. For each reason, come up with examples or quotes for support. It is important to always go back to the passage/book/story and collect the needed information.
      5. Reread your answer to make sure you answered all parts of the question.
      6. Each response should have at least six sentences, although more are often required for higher grades.
   3. ***Here’s some examples of a 2, 4, and 5 level answers.***
      1. ***Question:***
   4. **Assignments: Responding to text questions for ROOM:**
      1. The whole book is from Jack's viewpoint. Analyze his language and tell whether or not you think it is credible. Support with reference from the text.
         1. Hints for this first one: You need to know that this is at least a three part question. First, analyze his language...what is it like? How does he talk? Notice the discrepencies between 5 year old language combined with large vocabulary words. Describe it, using quotes from the textbook. Second, tell whether or not you think it is credible (believable), that a 5 year old boy in this situation would actually talk like this. Third, give reasons or support for your opinion based on your knowledge of 5 year old boys, other movies or books with confinement, relate to any personal experience, and/ or refer back to the text. Hand this paragraph answer in to be marked
      2. What would you ask Old Nick for for Sunday Treat if you were Ma? Jack? and why?
      3. Respond to this quote by Ma in a proper paragraph:  
         Ma: “It’s called mind over matter. If we don’t mind, it doesn’t matter.”  
         You can discuss this in any way you want, but some ideas are: What does it mean? How does it apply to Ma and Jack’s situation? How does it apply to you and your life or situations you’ve been in?
      4. Respond to the following quote from Jack. You can tell how it relates to Jack and Ma, or how it relates to you, your life or someone you know. You must answer in a complete and proper 6 sentence (at least) paragraph, including topic sentence, details and support, closing sentence.  
         Quote:  
         In Room me and Ma had time for everything. I guess the time gets spread very thin like butter all over the world, the roads and houses and playgrounds and stores, so there's only a little smear of time on each place, then everyone has to hurry on to the next bit....”
      5. Who do you think needed the other more, Jack or his mom? Why? Use evidence from the text to defend your opinion.
   5. Here is the rubric for marking:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 5-above level | 4-meeting expected outcomes | 3-approaching expected outcomes | 2-experiencing difficulty | 1-extreme difficulty |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. **ROOM to Scale:**  
   Using information from the story, recreate the room, to scale as much as possible, on graph paper, using 1 square as 1 square foot. To do this, you will need to keep notes about not only the size of the room, but the objects and size of the objects in it. Start these notes right from the beginning. You will receive graph paper on day 1, so that you can keep a rough sketch of the room as you go along. You will eventually need to hand in a final copy, preferably in colour. Work with a partner or group to divide up the first chapter (50 pages) and gather as many details of the room as possible. Skim each page for the capitalized words and any other description of the room or what's in it. Each student draws an aerial view of the room on graph paper. Include all the objects in the room, placed where you think they are based on the clues in the book. Try to draw what you can to scale.
2. Group discussion of the following questions. If you were not in class, you must answer them on loose leaf.  
   1. If you were Ma, what would you miss most about the outside world?
   2. What are some of the ways in which Jack's development has been stunted by growing up in Room? How has he benefited?
   3. What would you do differently if you were Jack's parent? Would you tell Jack about the outside world from the start?
   4. If Ma had never given birth to Jack, what would her situation in Room be like?
   5. Have you ever gotten into a car with someone you don't know, as Ma did? Did you find this to be a believable way for a 19-year-old to be kidnapped?
3. **Newspaper Article (ROOM)**

Read the following information on newspapers.

**Newspapers**

**Publisher**- the owner of the newspaper

**Editor**- in charge of the content

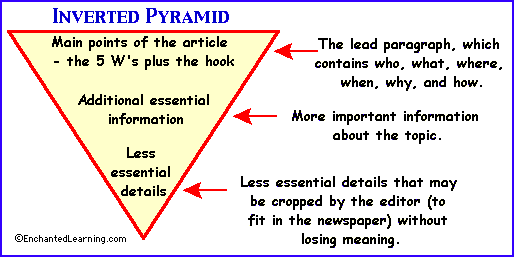
**Reporter**- research and write articles, sometimes specialize in a topic such as sports, international, or government

**Structure of a newspaper**:

**Headline-** large print

**Byline**- author’s name; not always included

**Lead**- interesting “hook” that includes all 5 W’s (who, what, where, when, why) and How; 2 sentences.

**Facts only**- no opinions

**Captions**- under every picture

**Inverted pyramid** format-

**Contents of a Newspaper**

* **First section** - with major news, world news and sometimes, **editorials** (where the newspaper editors offer their opinions on various topics - published with the **op-eds** -- opinions written by other writers). The most important news articles are on the first page; the top half of the first page is referred to as "above the fold."
* **Local news** section -with local news and weather.
* **Sports** section.
* **Lifestyle** section - often containing feature articles (non-news general interest pieces, for example, an article on stamp collecting or visiting New York City), entertainment, travel, fashion information, cooking, useful household hints, advice columns, the comics, puzzles, and reviews of movies and books.
* **Classified ads** section in which people and businesses advertise items for sale and post job notices.
* **Paid advertisements** are scattered throughout the paper except on first pages (the ads generate most of the revenue that keeps a newspaper in business).

**Assignment**:

Pretend you are a news reporter and were there when Ma and Jack escaped. Write a news article on their escape, on their stay in ROOM, or both. Remember to follow news article format. Here is how you will be marked. Notice the details are worth 10, so be sure your article is long enough.   
/1 Catchy Headline  
  
/1 By-line  
  
/5 Lead with 5 W’s  
  
/10 Body with 10 details  
  
/2 Conventions  
  
Total /19

1. Comprehension questions sheets:
   1. p.101-126
   2. p191-222
   3. p. 299-321
2. Write 10 meaningful interview questions for the author, that are related to the events or characters in the book.
3. **Book Review: /40**  
   Complete the writing variables chart first. In the writing variables chart, the "central idea" is up to you. Do you recommend this book or not?  
   In the large area, "develop your central idea" put the following topics for each of your 4 paragraphs that must be completed thoroughly:
   1. summary of plot
   2. strengths of the book
   3. weaknesses of the book
   4. your personal opinion and recommendation

The following information will give you a guideline on how a book report is written and some ideas for strengths, weaknesses and opinions.

**Book Reviews: What To Do**

1. Read some book reviews to pick out the main elements, which should include:
   * The book’s title and author
   * A brief summary of the plot that doesn’t give away too much
   * Comments on the book’s strengths and weaknesses
   * The reviewer’s personal response to the book with specific examples to support praise or criticism
2. You can find book reviews online at the Books section of [*USA Today*](http://www.usatoday.com/life/books/default.htm?loc=interstitialskip) or [*The New York Times*](http://www.nytimes.com/pages/books/), the [Barnes & Noble *Review*](http://bnreview.barnesandnoble.com/), or [*Kirkus Reviews*](http://www.kirkusreviews.com/kirkusreviews/index.jsp).
3. Take notes while reading the book to be reviewed so you can remember what points you want to make later and what specific scenes or quotes you might want to use to support those points.
4. Outline or map the book review before writing, using one paragraph for each point you want to make about the book.
5. Some ideas for you to keep in mind while writing the review:
   * Does the book fit into a genre, like mystery or romance, and why?
   * When and where does the action in the book take place? Does the author do a good job of making you feel like you are there? How?
   * Are the main characters believable? Do you know anyone like them? Does the author adequately describe them?
   * What do you like or dislike about the author’s writing style? That is, do you like the way the author uses words?
   * Use concrete examples to back up your points, such as describing a scene that really moved you or using a couple of short quotes from the book.
   * Don’t forget to include your opinion of the book, whether you liked or disliked it.
6. If you have time, do some background research on the author. Sources might include the author’s personal website, the website for the book’s publisher, or biographies of the author. Learning information about the author and knowing what other books he or she may have written can add context to a review.

Book reviews

<http://www.stieglarsson.com/discussion-boards/discussion-boards/how-did-blomkvist--8340663>

<http://www.stieglarsson.com/The-Girl-Who-Played-with-Fire>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/16/books/review/Crime-t.html>

<http://www.nytimes.com/best-sellers-books/2012-02-26/combined-print-and-e-book-nonfiction/list.html>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/04/books/bossypants-by-tina-fey-review.html?_r=1>

Here is the rubric for marking the book review:

/6 Writing Variables sheet

/1 catchy title

/1 indented each paragraph

/4 Paragraph 1- summary of plot: accurate, included important facts, but not too long

/4 Paragraph 2- Strengths of writing: topic sentence, one or more strengths, example/proof

/4 Paragraph 3- Weakness of writing/book: topic sentence, one or more weaknesses, example/proof

/3 Paragraph 4- Personal opinion and recommendations

/2 Conventions

Total /25

Room Assignment Checklist

Response journals:

\_\_\_\_\_After looking at cover, back, table of contents, font, pictures

\_\_\_\_\_ After the first chapter.

\_\_\_\_\_1/2 way through the book

\_\_\_\_\_3/4 way through the book

\_\_\_\_\_After you have completed the book

Question sheets:

\_\_\_\_\_Questions p. 101-126

\_\_\_\_\_Questions p. 191-222

\_\_\_\_\_Questions p. 299-321

Responding to text:

\_\_\_\_\_Jack’s language

\_\_\_\_\_Sunday treat

\_\_\_\_\_Mind over matter

\_\_\_\_\_Time

\_\_\_\_\_Who needs each other more?